

JASPER MORRIS

Inside Burgundy November 2024

Paul Chéron, who is one of Philippe's two sons, and who did an internship at Château Cheval Blanc, is now involved in



Paul et Philippe Chéron
Domaine du Couvent

the vinification. They were pleased that 2023 gave them the chance to experiment, given the size of the crop. They played around with whole bunches and omitting the press wine, which helps drinkability and limits potassium. They decided to begin picking on 7th September, having advanced from 10th, picking the final grapes on 24th at or under 13% (Les Barreaux, La Romanée). The yield was 50 hl/ha on average, despite green harvesting and initial debudding. Degrees ranged for 13% up to 14% for Murgers and Longeroies Blanc. The reds were still in barrel, unracked, and Philippe Chéron made the point that the wood is now all their own choice, having been able to phase out the barrels which they inherited from the Domaine de Varoilles. The wines will be bottled between march and July.

At my suggestion we tasted by terroirs (i.e all the Gevreys in one group, from village to Grands Crus, then the Chambolles etc) and the wines are presented in that order. These are very good wines, made with intelligence and aiming at somewhere in the middle of the spectrum between extracted and ethereal, nearer to classical than post-modern

2023 Clos Vougeot Grand Cru

Red

94-96

Some is sold off as they have a large holding. They have kept the upper part only in 2023 but think differently in very dry years like 2020 and 2022. 50% whole cluster and no vin de presse included. They want to make the wine that pleases them most, not necessarily just the best. Make Clos Vougeot more amiable, is the idea. Deep black-purple. Quite dense but not detailed on the nose. Quite a mixture in the mouth, this has not yet settled down and will need much more élevage. Plenty of interesting aspects, with a whole bunch briary note not quite married to the rest of the black fruit yet, but I do think that this will all come together. Drink from 2032-2038. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Vosne-Romanée Les Barreaux

Red

93-95

Last picked, since the Barreaux vineyard is in part north facing. They vinified the two exposures separately, and didn't find much difference, either by analysis or taste – which rather surprised them. This has the lowest pH of the cellar and just under 13% alcohol. Deep glowing purple, with a pure racy dark cherry fruit. Fascinating fresh red but properly ripe fruit on the palate, this is a really fine village Vosne with impeccable length. Drink from 2029-2036. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Nuits-St-Georges Aux Murgers 1^{er} Cru

Red

92-95

100% whole bunch vinification on the produce from old vines, planted just after the war. Mid purple. The whole bunches make a strong statement alongside the fully ripe dark raspberry fruit, this is 14% alcohol and low acidity, but the bouquet strikes me as fresh enough. Lush and really lovely, the whole approach works really well. Drink from 2030-2038. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Gevrey-Chambertin Champonnet 1^{er} Cru

Red

92-94

Two plots, coming from Domaine des Varoilles (1960s) and Misseret (1980s). Glowing purple, with a lively nose, more red fruit than black, Excellent structure, firm but ripe tannins, maintaining the classic Gevrey style. They did try some whole bunches for part of this cuvée, but did not like it on Champonnets, and sold it off. What they have kept is very good. Drink from 2030-2036. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Gevrey-Chambertin La Romanée 1^{er} Cru Red 92-94

The last picked, with a slightly lower yield here at 44 hl/ha. The bunches stayed small here in La Romanée. Destemmed. Glowing purple in colour again. Serene fruit across the palate, an elegant and indeed intense poised raspberry, fine-grained tannins with excellent length. Stylish, sensual but not sumptuous. Drink from 2030-2036. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Chambolle-Musigny Les Feusselottes 1^{er} Cru Red 91-94

New in 2021 and now they own the land (2024). From the upper part on crinoidal limestone. Can be high pH and volatile here, so the grapes are destemmed. A bright and quite deep purple, with greater density of raspberry, a solid weight of fruit across the palate, with firmer tannins behind. The Feusselottes needs more elevation, which it will receive. Interesting, a wine worth investigating further. Drink from 2030-2037. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Chambolle-Musigny Clos de l'Orme Red 91-93

Old vines, 50% whole bunch vinification which really lifts the nose, beautifully perfumed with floral notes. Roses, violets and a suggestion of chocolate, very light. Chambolle on the ethereal side, all red fruit on the palate with a little orange zest, fine length, a very stylish rendition of Chambolle. Drink from 2028-2035. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Gevrey-Chambertin Seuvrées Red 90-92

50% whole bunch vinification. A rich dense purple colour. The whole bunches seem to give a darker fruit on top of the traditional strawberry note. Lovely classy fruit at the finish with good acidity and a lingering dark berry fruit. Drink from 2028-2033. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Chambolle-Musigny Les 40 Ouvrées Red 90-92

This substantial cuvée, of which they have made three tanks, comes from Les Condemennes, below the village, and from vineyards behind, all blended. Lifted cherry and strawberry notes, with a little spicy white pepper, although destemmed. Good energy through the middle, no sign of dilution in this cellar, with darker fruit showing through and a long finish. Not high in acidity, but adequate. Drink from 2028-2033. Tasted Nov 2024.

2023 Bourgogne Côte d'Or Red 86-88

2023 Gevrey-Chambertin Clos du Couvent Red 88-90